## TABLE 1. UTAH'S CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE AND NONAGRICULTURAL PAYROLL JOBS
(Numbers in Thousands)

| | Mar. 1990(f) | Mar. 1989 | % Change | Feb. 1990(p) | Feb. 1989 | % Change | Jan. 1990(r) | Jan. 1989 | % Change |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE | 802.0 | 773.6 | 3.7 | 787.4 | 759.7 | 3.6 | 792.5 | 758.5 | 4.5 |
| Employed Persons | 764.0 | 727.4 | 5.0 | 751.4 | 720.8 | 4.2 | 758.0 | 722.5 | 4.9 |
| Unemployed | 38.0 | 46.2 | -17.7 | 36.0 | 38.9 | -7.5 | 34.5 | 36.0 | —4.2 |
| Percent of Labor Force | 4.7 | 6.0 | — | 4.6 | 5.1 | — | 4.4 | 4.7 | — |
| *Seasonally Adjusted* | 4.2 | 5.3 | — | 4.0 | 4.5 | — | 4.1 | 4.5 | — |
| U.S. Unemployment Rate (Seasonally Adjusted) | 5.2 | 5.0 | — | 5.3 | 5.2 | — | 5.3 | 5.5 | — |
| NONAGRICULTURAL PAYROLL JOBS | 706.2 | 676.0 | 4.5 | 696.9 | 667.2 | 4.5 | 695.0 | 664.2 | 4.6 |
| Mining | 8.3 | 7.7 | 7.8 | 8.2 | 7.6 | 7.9 | 8.4 | 7.6 | 10.5 |
| Metal Mining | 2.9 | 2.8 | 3.6 | 2.9 | 2.8 | 3.6 | 3.0 | 2.7 | 11.1 |
| Coal Mining | 2.7 | 2.5 | 8.0 | 2.6 | 2.4 | 8.3 | 2.6 | 2.4 | 8.3 |
| Oil/Gas Extraction & Quarrying | 2.7 | 2.3 | 17.4 | 2.7 | 2.3 | 17.4 | 2.7 | 2.5 | 8.0 |
| Construction | 24.4 | 22.9 | 6.6 | 21.8 | 20.5 | 6.3 | 22.6 | 21.0 | 7.6 |
| Manufacturing | 103.3 | 101.2 | 2.1 | 102.8 | 100.8 | 2.0 | 102.1 | 100.2 | 1.9 |
| Durable Goods | 69.0 | 67.7 | 1.9 | 68.8 | 67.5 | 1.9 | 68.5 | 67.2 | 1.9 |
| *Primary Metals* | 5.8 | 5.5 | 5.5 | 5.7 | 5.4 | 5.6 | 5.6 | 5.4 | 3.7 |
| *Fab. Metal Prod., Machinery & Computers** | 14.2 | 13.9 | 2.2 | 14.1 | 13.8 | 2.2 | 14.0 | 13.7 | 2.2 |
| *Electronic/Elec. Equip. (except computers)** | 11.3 | 12.0 | -5.8 | 11.6 | 12.3 | -5.7 | 11.7 | 12.4 | —5.6 |
| *Transportation Equipment* | 16.9 | 17.0 | -0.6 | 17.1 | 17.0 | 0.6 | 16.8 | 17.0 | —1.2 |
| *Lumber & Furn., Stone/Clay/Glass Prod.†* | 10.0 | 9.4 | 6.4 | 9.8 | 9.2 | 6.5 | 10.1 | 9.1 | 11.0 |
| *Other Durable Goods** | 11.0 | 10.0 | 10.0 | 10.6 | 9.8 | 8.2 | 10.3 | 9.7 | 6.2 |
| Nondurable Goods | 34.1 | 33.5 | 1.8 | 33.9 | 33.3 | 1.8 | 33.6 | 33.0 | 1.8 |
| *Food & Related Products* | 11.4 | 11.1 | 2.7 | 11.3 | 11.0 | 2.7 | 11.3 | 11.0 | 2.7 |
| *Other Nondurable Goods** | 22.7 | 22.4 | 1.3 | 22.6 | 22.3 | 1.3 | 22.3 | 22.0 | 1.4 |
| Transportation, Communications, & Public Util. | 42.1 | 39.8 | 5.8 | 42.3 | 40.0 | 5.7 | 41.8 | 39.8 | 5.0 |
| Railroad Transportation | 2.5 | 2.6 | -3.8 | 2.5 | 2.6 | -3.8 | 2.5 | 2.5 | 0.0 |
| Trucking & Warehousing† | 15.5 | 13.9 | 11.5 | 15.1 | 13.5 | 11.9 | 14.9 | 13.5 | 10.4 |
| Transportation by Air† | 6.4 | 6.0 | 6.7 | 6.8 | 6.4 | 6.2 | 6.8 | 6.4 | 6.2 |
| Other Transportation & Related Services† | 3.1 | 3.0 | 3.3 | 3.4 | 3.1 | 9.7 | 3.1 | 2.9 | 6.9 |
| Communications† | 7.0 | 7.0 | 0.0 | 7.0 | 7.0 | 0.0 | 6.9 | 7.0 | —1.4 |
| Electric, Gas, & Sanitary Services† | 7.6 | 7.4 | 2.7 | 7.6 | 7.4 | 2.7 | 7.6 | 7.5 | 1.3 |
| Trade | 170.3 | 160.0 | 6.4 | 167.8 | 157.6 | 6.5 | 169.0 | 158.4 | 6.7 |
| Wholesale Trade | 39.9 | 37.8 | 5.6 | 39.3 | 37.3 | 5.4 | 39.1 | 36.9 | 6.0 |
| *Durable Goods†* | 24.4 | 23.2 | 5.2 | 24.1 | 22.9 | 5.2 | 23.9 | 22.7 | 5.3 |
| *Nondurable Goods†* | 15.5 | 14.6 | 6.2 | 15.2 | 14.3 | 6.3 | 15.2 | 14.2 | 7.0 |
| Retail Trade | 130.4 | 122.2 | 6.7 | 128.5 | 120.3 | 6.8 | 129.9 | 121.3 | 7.1 |
| *Food Stores* | 22.9 | 21.8 | 5.0 | 22.6 | 21.5 | 5.1 | 22.7 | 21.5 | 5.6 |
| *Auto Dealers/Parts Stores & Gasoline Sta.* | 15.9 | 14.9 | 6.7 | 15.6 | 14.6 | 6.8 | 15.7 | 14.5 | 8.3 |
| *Eating & Drinking Places* | 41.3 | 39.7 | 4.0 | 40.4 | 38.8 | 4.1 | 40.1 | 38.3 | 4.7 |
| *Home Furniture/Equip. & Clothing Stores†* | 11.5 | 10.3 | 11.7 | 11.4 | 10.2 | 11.8 | 11.9 | 10.6 | 12.3 |
| *Gen. Merchandise & Bldg./Garden Supply†* | 21.8 | 20.5 | 6.3 | 21.7 | 20.4 | 6.4 | 22.4 | 21.2 | 5.7 |
| *Miscellaneous Retail†* | 17.0 | 15.0 | 13.3 | 16.8 | 14.8 | 13.5 | 17.0 | 15.2 | 11.8 |
| Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate | 33.4 | 33.1 | 0.9 | 33.4 | 33.1 | 0.9 | 33.4 | 32.9 | 1.5 |
| Depository Institutions† | 13.1 | 13.1 | 0.0 | 13.2 | 13.2 | 0.0 | 13.2 | 13.2 | 0.0 |
| Other Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate† | 20.3 | 20.0 | 1.5 | 20.2 | 19.9 | 1.5 | 20.1 | 19.7 | 2.0 |
| Services | 174.3 | 163.9 | 6.3 | 171.2 | 161.1 | 6.3 | 169.2 | 158.8 | 6.5 |
| Hotels & Other Lodging Places | 12.4 | 11.7 | 6.0 | 11.8 | 11.1 | 6.3 | 11.5 | 10.8 | 6.5 |
| Personal, Amusement, & Recreational Services | 16.8 | 16.2 | 3.7 | 16.2 | 15.6 | 3.8 | 16.0 | 15.5 | 3.2 |
| Computer-Related Services† | 7.3 | 6.3 | 15.9 | 7.1 | 6.1 | 16.4 | 7.0 | 6.1 | 14.8 |
| Other Business Services† | 26.6 | 24.5 | 8.6 | 26.2 | 24.1 | 8.7 | 26.6 | 23.6 | 12.7 |
| Auto Repair/Rental/Parking Services† | 6.5 | 6.0 | 8.3 | 6.4 | 5.9 | 8.5 | 6.3 | 5.8 | 8.6 |
| Health Services | 44.1 | 42.0 | 5.0 | 44.0 | 41.9 | 5.0 | 43.7 | 41.8 | 4.5 |
| Educ./Social Services & Membership Organiz.† | 37.9 | 35.9 | 5.6 | 37.5 | 35.5 | 5.6 | 36.4 | 34.5 | 5.5 |
| Legal & Miscellaneous Services | 4.7 | 4.6 | 2.2 | 4.6 | 4.5 | 2.2 | 4.6 | 4.5 | 2.2 |
| Engineering, Accounting, & Related Services† | 13.1 | 12.4 | 5.6 | 12.9 | 12.2 | 5.7 | 12.8 | 12.2 | 4.9 |
| Other Repair/Agric. Services & Museums, etc.† | 4.9 | 4.5 | 8.9 | 4.5 | 4.1 | 9.8 | 4.4 | 4.1 | 7.3 |
| Government | 150.1 | 147.5 | 1.8 | 149.4 | 146.7 | 1.8 | 148.6 | 145.5 | 2.1 |
| Federal Government | 39.9 | 39.8 | 0.3 | 39.7 | 39.6 | 0.3 | 39.9 | 39.3 | 1.5 |
| *U.S. Defense* | 21.9 | 21.9 | 0.0 | 21.8 | 21.8 | 0.0 | 21.8 | 21.8 | 0.0 |
| *Other Federal Government* | 18.0 | 17.9 | 0.6 | 17.9 | 17.8 | 0.6 | 18.1 | 17.5 | 3.4 |
| State Government | 42.1 | 40.4 | 4.2 | 42.3 | 40.6 | 4.2 | 42.0 | 40.3 | 4.2 |
| *State Education* | 23.6 | 22.5 | 4.9 | 23.8 | 22.7 | 4.8 | 23.7 | 22.5 | 5.3 |
| *Other State Government* | 18.5 | 17.9 | 3.4 | 18.5 | 17.9 | 3.4 | 18.3 | 17.8 | 2.8 |
| Local Government | 68.1 | 67.2 | 1.3 | 67.4 | 66.5 | 1.4 | 66.7 | 65.9 | 1.2 |
| *Public School Districts* | 44.9 | 44.5 | 0.9 | 44.4 | 44.0 | 0.9 | 43.8 | 43.4 | 0.9 |
| *Other Local Government* | 23.2 | 22.7 | 2.2 | 23.0 | 22.5 | 2.2 | 22.8 | 22.5 | 1.3 |
| *Labor—Management Disputes* | 0.1 | 0.0 | — | 0.0 | 0.0 | — | 0.0 | 0.0 | — |

*Current data differ from previous series. † New series.

Note: Labor disputes are added into civilian labor force totals, but are excluded from nonagricultural payroll job totals.

f = forecast, p = preliminary, r = revised

Source: Utah Department of Employment Security, Labor Market Information Services. Prepared in conjunction with U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

## TABLE 2. EMPLOYMENT STATUS OF UTAH'S POPULATION, AND NONAGRICULTURAL JOBS BY INDUSTRY
(Numbers in Thousands, Seasonally Adjusted)

| | Mar. 1990 (f) | Mar. 1989 | % Change | Feb. 1990 (p) | Jan. 1990 (r) | Dec. 1989 | Nov. 1989 | Oct. 1989 | Sept. 1989 | Aug. 1989 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| TOTAL POPULATION[1] | 1,730.0 | 1,708.0 | 1.3 | 1,728.0 | 1,726.0 | 1,724.0 | 1,722.0 | 1,720.0 | 1,718.0 | 1,717.0 |
| Civilian Noninstitutional Population 16 Years & Older[1] | 1,119.3 | 1,105.1 | 1.3 | 1,118.0 | 1,116.7 | 1,115.4 | 1,114.1 | 1,112.8 | 1,111.5 | 1,110.9 |
| CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE | 811.6 | 781.8 | 3.8 | 800.2 | 809.4 | 800.7 | 797.7 | 797.7 | 796.9 | 794.2 |
| Participation Rate | 72.5 | 70.7 | — | 71.6 | 72.5 | 71.8 | 71.6 | 71.7 | 71.7 | 71.5 |
| TOTAL EMPLOYED PERSONS[2] | 777.4 | 740.3 | 5.0 | 768.2 | 776.0 | 766.1 | 762.8 | 761.9 | 761.0 | 757.4 |
| Employment Ratio[3] | 69.5 | 67.0 | — | 68.7 | 69.5 | 68.7 | 68.5 | 68.5 | 68.5 | 68.2 |
| UNEMPLOYED PERSONS | 34.2 | 41.5 | —17.6 | 32.0 | 33.4 | 34.6 | 34.9 | 35.8 | 35.9 | 36.8 |
| Unemployment Rate | 4.2 | 5.3 | — | 4.0 | 4.1 | 4.3 | 4.4 | 4.5 | 4.5 | 4.6 |
| NOT IN THE LABOR FORCE | 307.7 | 323.3 | —4.8 | 317.8 | 307.3 | 314.7 | 316.4 | 315.1 | 314.6 | 316.7 |
| NONAGRICULTURAL JOB INDEX[4] | 145.3 | 138.9 | 4.6 | 143.3 | 143.0 | 144.9 | 144.6 | 143.5 | 143.4 | 142.2 |
| NONAGRICULTURAL JOBS[5] | 710.4 | 680.1 | 4.5 | 705.6 | 704.2 | 704.6 | 703.2 | 697.8 | 697.1 | 692.2 |
| Mining | 8.2 | 7.6 | 7.8 | 8.1 | 8.2 | 8.1 | 8.1 | 8.4 | 8.4 | 8.5 |
| Contract Construction | 27.7 | 26.0 | 6.6 | 26.1 | 26.6 | 26.8 | 27.2 | 25.5 | 25.6 | 25.7 |
| Manufacturing | 104.0 | 102.1 | 1.9 | 104.2 | 103.8 | 104.2 | 104.2 | 102.7 | 103.5 | 103.4 |
| Durable Goods | 69.6 | 68.3 | 1.9 | 69.8 | 69.4 | 69.6 | 69.9 | 69.0 | 68.7 | 68.8 |
| Nondurable Goods | 34.5 | 33.8 | 1.8 | 34.4 | 34.4 | 34.5 | 34.3 | 33.8 | 34.7 | 34.6 |
| Trans., Comm., & Pub. Util. | 42.5 | 40.2 | 5.8 | 42.8 | 42.5 | 41.8 | 41.9 | 41.3 | 41.1 | 40.5 |
| Trade | 173.8 | 163.3 | 6.4 | 172.4 | 171.5 | 168.8 | 168.5 | 168.2 | 168.1 | 167.2 |
| Wholesale | 40.2 | 38.1 | 5.6 | 39.9 | 39.7 | 38.5 | 38.6 | 38.7 | 38.9 | 38.8 |
| Retail | 133.6 | 125.2 | 6.7 | 132.5 | 131.8 | 130.3 | 129.9 | 129.5 | 129.1 | 128.5 |
| Finance, Ins., & Real Est. | 33.4 | 33.1 | 0.9 | 33.6 | 33.7 | 34.0 | 33.2 | 33.7 | 33.6 | 33.6 |
| Services | 173.2 | 162.9 | 6.3 | 170.9 | 169.6 | 173.2 | 171.3 | 170.0 | 169.4 | 169.2 |
| Government | 147.5 | 144.9 | 1.8 | 147.6 | 148.3 | 147.7 | 148.9 | 148.0 | 147.6 | 144.0 |
| Federal | 39.9 | 39.8 | 0.3 | 40.1 | 40.4 | 40.0 | 40.8 | 40.4 | 40.0 | 40.1 |
| State | 40.7 | 39.1 | 4.2 | 40.8 | 41.2 | 40.1 | 40.6 | 40.5 | 40.5 | 40.9 |
| Local | 66.9 | 66.0 | 1.3 | 66.7 | 66.7 | 67.7 | 67.5 | 67.1 | 67.0 | 63.1 |

[1] Figures represent estimated trends; they are not seasonally adjusted.
[2] Includes individual nonagricultural proprietors, unpaid family workers, and employees of private households.
[3] Represents the employed portion of the population, 16 years and older, by place of residence.
[4] Base year 1977 = 100.
[5] Includes full- and part-time jobs, including multiple jobs held by the same person, by place of work.
f = forecast, p = preliminary, r = revised.
Source: Utah Department of Employment Security, Labor Market Information Services.

## TABLE 3. DISTRIBUTION OF NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT BY SEX, AND PRODUCTION WORKERS, BY INDUSTRY, IN UTAH
(Employment in Thousands)

| | Male | | | Female | | | Production Workers | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Feb. 1990(p) | % Change from Feb. '89 | % Distribution | Feb. 1990(p) | % Change from Feb. '89 | % Distribution | Feb. 1990(p) | % of Industry |
| TOTAL | 378.5 | 1.8 | 100.0 | 318.3 | 7.6 | 100.0 | NA | NA |
| Mining | 7.4 | 4.2 | 2.0 | 0.8 | 60.0 | 0.3 | 6.2 | 75.6 |
| Contract Construction | 18.7 | 3.9 | 4.9 | 3.1 | 24.0 | 1.0 | 16.1 | 73.9 |
| Manufacturing | 69.1 | —1.3 | 18.3 | 33.6 | 9.1 | 10.6 | 67.8 | 66.0 |
| Durable Goods | 49.3 | 0.2 | 13.0 | 19.5 | 6.6 | 6.1 | 44.9 | 65.3 |
| Nondurable Goods | 19.8 | —4.8 | 5.2 | 14.1 | 12.8 | 4.4 | 22.9 | 67.6 |
| Transportation, Commun., & Pub. Util. | 26.5 | 6.3 | 7.5 | 13.8 | 4.5 | 4.3 | 32.1 | 75.9 |
| Total Trade | 84.2 | —3.1 | 22.2 | 83.6 | 18.2 | 26.3 | 148.6 | 88.6 |
| Wholesale Trade | 27.3 | 4.6 | 7.2 | 12.0 | 7.1 | 3.8 | 32.9 | 83.7 |
| Retail Trade | 56.9 | —6.4 | 15.0 | 71.6 | 20.3 | 22.5 | 115.7 | 90.0 |
| Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate | 13.7 | 0.0 | 3.6 | 19.7 | 1.5 | 6.2 | 25.6 | 76.6 |
| Services | 78.1 | 3.2 | 20.6 | 93.1 | 9.0 | 29.2 | 131.9 | 77.0 |
| Total Government | 78.8 | 7.2 | 20.8 | 70.6 | —3.6 | 22.2 | NA | NA |
| Federal Government | 22.9 | 9.0 | 6.1 | 16.8 | —9.7 | 5.3 | NA | NA |
| State Government | 23.1 | 12.7 | 6.1 | 19.2 | —4.5 | 6.0 | NA | NA |
| Local Government | 32.8 | 2.5 | 8.7 | 34.6 | 0.3 | 10.9 | NA | NA |

p = preliminary.
Source: Utah Department of Employment Security, Labor Market Information Services.

## TABLE 4. LABOR FORCE AND EMPLOYMENT IN UTAH'S METROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREAS
(Numbers in Thousands)

| | Salt Lake - Ogden[1] | | | | | Provo - Orem[2] | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Mar. 1990(f) | Mar. 1989 | % Chg. | Feb. 1990(p) | Jan. 1990(r) | Mar. 1990(f) | Mar. 1989 | % Chg. | Feb. 1990(p) | Jan. 1990(r) |
| CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE | 519.7 | 504.6 | 3.0 | 509.7 | 514.0 | 114.6 | 107.9 | 6.2 | 113.4 | 114.2 |
| Employed Persons | 496.7 | 475.8 | 4.4 | 488.5 | 493.1 | 110.2 | 102.3 | 7.7 | 108.7 | 110.1 |
| Unemployed | 23.0 | 28.8 | —20.1 | 21.2 | 20.9 | 4.4 | 5.6 | —21.4 | 4.7 | 4.1 |
| Percent of Labor Force | 4.4 | 5.7 | — | 4.2 | 4.1 | 3.8 | 5.2 | — | 4.2 | 3.6 |
| *Seasonally Adjusted* | 3.8 | 5.1 | — | 3.6 | 3.9 | 3.2 | 4.5 | — | 3.2 | 3.2 |
| Total Nonagricultural Jobs | 482.3 | 463.4 | 4.1 | 475.7 | 474.3 | 90.5 | 84.9 | 6.6 | 89.7 | 89.5 |
| Mining | 2.8 | 2.5 | 12.0 | 2.5 | 2.6 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Contract Construction | 17.3 | 16.1 | 7.5 | 15.5 | 15.9 | 2.4 | 2.4 | 0.0 | 2.2 | 2.3 |
| Manufacturing | 66.5 | 65.6 | 1.4 | 66.0 | 65.7 | 13.6 | 13.3 | 2.3 | 13.8 | 13.6 |
| Durable Goods | 46.4 | 45.8 | 1.3 | 46.0 | 45.8 | 8.6 | 8.4 | 2.4 | 8.8 | 8.7 |
| Nondurable Goods | 20.1 | 19.8 | 1.5 | 20.0 | 19.9 | 5.0 | 4.9 | 2.0 | 5.0 | 4.9 |
| Transp., Commun., & Pub. Util. | 32.2 | 30.4 | 5.9 | 32.4 | 32.1 | 2.9 | 2.8 | 3.6 | 2.8 | 2.7 |
| Total Trade | 121.6 | 115.5 | 5.3 | 119.8 | 120.7 | 20.5 | 18.1 | 13.3 | 20.5 | 20.7 |
| Wholesale Trade | 33.0 | 31.3 | 5.4 | 32.5 | 32.5 | 3.2 | 3.0 | 6.7 | 3.3 | 3.1 |
| Retail Trade | 88.6 | 84.2 | 5.2 | 87.3 | 88.2 | 17.3 | 15.1 | 14.6 | 17.2 | 17.6 |
| Finance, Insurance, & Real Est. | 27.2 | 26.9 | 1.1 | 27.2 | 27.2 | 2.3 | 2.3 | 0.0 | 2.3 | 2.3 |
| Services | 116.4 | 110.2 | 5.6 | 114.2 | 112.5 | 34.3 | 31.8 | 7.9 | 33.8 | 33.8 |
| Total Government | 98.3 | 96.2 | 2.2 | 98.1 | 97.6 | 14.5 | 14.2 | 2.1 | 14.3 | 14.1 |

[1] Includes Salt Lake, Davis, and Weber counties.
[2] Provo - Orem is Utah County.
Note: f = forecast, p = preliminary, r = revised. Detail may not add to totals because of independent rounding.
Forecast unemployment rates are advance estimates consistent with BLS approved procedures. Forecast rates should not be used for federal funding applications.
Source: Utah Department of Employment Security, Labor Market Information Services. Prepared in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

## TABLE 5. CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE AND COMPONENTS IN UTAH BY PLANNING DISTRICT AND COUNTY

| Planning District and County | Seas. Adj. Unemployment Rate | | | | Civilian Labor Force | | | Nonag. Wage and Salary Jobs | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Mar. '90(f) | Feb.'90(p) | Jan. '90(r) | Mar. '89 | Mar. '90(f) | Mar. '89 | % Change | Mar. '90(f) | Mar. '89 | % Change |
| State Total | 4.2 | 4.0 | 4.1 | 5.3 | 802,000 | 773,640 | 3.7 | 706,000 | 676,040 | 4.4 |
| Bear River | 4.5 | 4.1 | 3.9 | 4.2 | 52,130 | 49,870 | 4.5 | 43,960 | 42,420 | 3.6 |
| Box Elder | 4.9 | 4.7 | 4.4 | 4.3 | 18,230 | 17,500 | 4.2 | 15,830 | 15,350 | 3.1 |
| Cache | 4.3 | 3.8 | 3.6 | 4.3 | 33,120 | 31,640 | 4.7 | 27,790 | 26,740 | 3.9 |
| Rich | 1.8 | 2.6 | 2.9 | 2.3 | 780 | 730 | 6.8 | 340 | 330 | 3.0 |
| Wasatch Front | 3.9 | 3.6 | 3.9 | 5.1 | 532,870 | 517,190 | 3.0 | 493,680 | 474,420 | 4.1 |
| *North* | 4.1 | 3.7 | 4.1 | 5.7 | 157,230 | 153,160 | 2.7 | 122,250 | 118,960 | 2.8 |
| Davis | 3.7 | 3.2 | 3.5 | 5.0 | 80,410 | 78,130 | 2.9 | 58,300 | 54,330 | 3.6 |
| Morgan | 6.7 | 6.3 | 7.9 | 11.6 | 1,720 | 1,720 | 0.0 | 950 | 910 | 4.4 |
| Weber | 4.5 | 4.2 | 4.8 | 6.2 | 75,100 | 73,310 | 2.4 | 65,000 | 63,720 | 2.0 |
| *South* | 3.8 | 3.6 | 3.8 | 4.9 | 375,640 | 364,030 | 3.2 | 371,430 | 355,460 | 4.5 |
| Salt Lake | 3.7 | 3.6 | 3.8 | 4.9 | 364,130 | 353,110 | 3.1 | 361,020 | 345,380 | 4.5 |
| Tooele | 5.5 | 4.7 | 4.5 | 5.0 | 11,510 | 10,920 | 5.4 | 10,410 | 10,080 | 3.3 |
| Mountainlands | 3.5 | 3.5 | 3.5 | 4.8 | 129,060 | 121,740 | 6.0 | 102,230 | 96,010 | 6.5 |
| Summit | 5.6 | 5.2 | 5.4 | 7.0 | 10,100 | 9,660 | 4.6 | 9,360 | 8,920 | 4.9 |
| Utah | 3.2 | 3.2 | 3.2 | 4.5 | 114,800 | 107,890 | 6.2 | 90,600 | 84,920 | 6.7 |
| Wasatch | 7.0 | 6.4 | 6.6 | 8.9 | 4,360 | 4,190 | 4.1 | 2,270 | 2,170 | 4.6 |
| Central | 5.7 | 5.4 | 6.3 | 7.7 | 21,780 | 21,140 | 3.0 | 14,490 | 13,970 | 3.7 |
| Juab | 4.4 | 3.2 | 5.5 | 8.8 | 2,040 | 2,080 | —1.9 | 1,630 | 1,600 | 1.9 |
| Millard | 4.0 | 3.4 | 4.2 | 5.1 | 5,410 | 5,190 | 4.2 | 3,330 | 3,200 | 4.1 |
| Piute | 13.8 | 11.8 | 11.5 | 5.2 | 480 | 370 | 24.3 | 200 | 190 | 5.3 |
| Sanpete | 8.0 | 7.6 | 8.9 | 12.6 | 6,170 | 6,160 | 0.2 | 3,720 | 3,590 | 3.6 |
| Sevier | 4.8 | 5.0 | 5.2 | 5.1 | 6,610 | 6,320 | 4.6 | 5,080 | 4,870 | 4.3 |
| Wayne | 6.1 | 7.5 | 8.2 | 6.2 | 1,090 | 1,020 | 6.9 | 530 | 520 | 1.9 |
| Southwestern | 4.9 | 4.4 | 4.8 | 5.0 | 34,070 | 32,080 | 6.2 | 24,920 | 23,580 | 5.7 |
| Beaver | 4.1 | 3.8 | 4.1 | 6.2 | 2,010 | 1,910 | 5.2 | 1,240 | 1,190 | 4.2 |
| Garfield | 11.3 | 10.1 | 7.2 | 10.6 | 1,610 | 1,520 | 5.9 | 1,340 | 1,300 | 3.1 |
| Iron | 4.4 | 4.2 | 5.0 | 4.1 | 9,450 | 8,770 | 7.8 | 7,500 | 7,070 | 6.1 |
| Kane | 6.4 | 6.1 | 5.8 | 7.5 | 2,360 | 2,280 | 3.5 | 1,350 | 1,290 | 4.7 |
| Washington | 4.4 | 3.9 | 4.5 | 4.4 | 18,640 | 17,600 | 5.9 | 13,490 | 12,730 | 6.0 |
| Uintah Basin | 6.5 | 5.6 | 6.4 | 8.8 | 13,250 | 12,830 | 3.5 | 10,130 | 9,680 | 4.6 |
| Daggett | 1.2 | 2.0 | 1.0 | 1.7 | 380 | 370 | 2.7 | 290 | 280 | 3.6 |
| Duchesne | 8.3 | 6.0 | 7.9 | 10.0 | 4,580 | 4,420 | 3.6 | 3,400 | 3,260 | 4.3 |
| Uintah | 5.8 | 5.6 | 6.0 | 8.5 | 8,320 | 8,040 | 3.5 | 6,440 | 6,140 | 4.9 |
| Southeastern | 7.1 | 7.6 | 7.6 | 9.5 | 19,040 | 18,810 | 1.2 | 16,620 | 15,980 | 4.0 |
| Carbon | 7.3 | 7.4 | 7.3 | 10.4 | 8,600 | 8,510 | 1.1 | 7,680 | 7,330 | 4.8 |
| Emery | 6.9 | 8.9 | 8.9 | 8.3 | 3,650 | 3,620 | 0.8 | 3,630 | 3,550 | 2.3 |
| Grand | 6.9 | 6.4 | 7.0 | 10.3 | 2,750 | 2,720 | 1.1 | 2,040 | 1,960 | 4.1 |
| San Juan | 7.0 | 7.7 | 7.7 | 8.3 | 4,040 | 3,960 | 2.0 | 3,270 | 3,140 | 4.1 |

Note: f = forecast, p = preliminary, r = revised.
Seasonally adjusted unemployment rates should not be used for federal or state funding applications.
Source: Utah Department of Employment Security, Labor Market Information Services.

## TABLE 6. HOURS AND EARNINGS OF PRODUCTION WORKERS IN SALT LAKE-OGDEN LABOR AREA

| | Average Weekly Earnings | | | Average Weekly Hours | | | Average Hourly Earnings | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Jan.(p) 1990 | Dec.(r) 1989 | Jan. 1989 | Jan.(p) 1990 | Dec.(r) 1989 | Jan. 1989 | Jan.(p) 1990 | Dec.(r) 1989 | Jan. 1989 |
| MINING | $541.78 | $621.43 | $539.22 | 47.4 | 51.7 | 47.3 | $11.43 | $12.02 | $11.40 |
| MANUFACTURING | 407.63 | 401.76 | 390.26 | 40.2 | 39.7 | 39.5 | 10.14 | 10.12 | 9.88 |
| Durable Goods | 413.71 | 404.21 | 392.00 | 40.8 | 40.1 | 40.0 | 10.14 | 10.08 | 9.80 |
| Nondurable Goods | 391.40 | 392.06 | 388.99 | 38.6 | 38.4 | 38.4 | 10.14 | 10.21 | 10.13 |
| TRADE | 213.64 | 219.18 | 212.25 | 28.0 | 28.1 | 28.3 | 7.63 | 7.80 | 7.50 |
| Wholesale Trade | 371.25 | 376.43 | 376.24 | 35.8 | 36.3 | 37.4 | 10.37 | 10.37 | 10.06 |
| Retail Trade | 159.77 | 165.72 | 156.24 | 25.4 | 25.3 | 25.2 | 6.29 | 6.55 | 6.20 |
| AVERAGE | 272.62 | 275.79 | 269.24 | 31.7 | 31.7 | 31.9 | 8.60 | 8.70 | 8.44 |

Note: Average hours includes hours actually worked or remunerated. Average hourly and weekly earnings include incentive and premium pay. Data may be affected by labor disputes. p = preliminary. r = revised.
Source: Utah Department of Employment Security, Labor Market Information Services. Prepared in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

## TABLE 7. HOURS AND EARNINGS OF PRODUCTION WORKERS IN UTAH

| | Average Weekly Earnings | | | Average Weekly Hours | | | Average Hourly Earnings | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Feb.(p) 1990 | Jan.(r) 1990 | Feb. 1989 | Feb.(p) 1990 | Jan.(r) 1990 | Feb. 1989 | Feb.(p) 1990 | Jan.(r) 1990 | Feb. 1989 |
| MINING | $587.92 | $593.14 | $584.78 | 41.2 | 41.8 | 41.8 | $14.27 | $14.19 | $13.99 |
| Metal Mining | 558.21 | 582.82 | 544.00 | 44.8 | 46.0 | 43.8 | 12.46 | 12.67 | 12.42 |
| Bituminous Coal Mining | 733.72 | 693.36 | 696.90 | 41.5 | 38.8 | 39.8 | 17.68 | 17.87 | 17.51 |
| MANUFACTURING | 408.58 | 406.13 | 396.58 | 39.9 | 39.7 | 39.5 | 10.24 | 10.23 | 10.04 |
| Durable Goods | 423.28 | 419.58 | 407.82 | 40.7 | 40.5 | 40.1 | 10.40 | 10.36 | 10.17 |
| Primary Metal Industries | 510.45 | 532.53 | 543.85 | 41.0 | 42.5 | 43.3 | 12.45 | 12.53 | 12.56 |
| Fabricated Metal Prod. & Mach. | 389.37 | 384.12 | 382.55 | 40.1 | 39.6 | 40.1 | 9.71 | 9.70 | 9.54 |
| Transportation Equipment | 556.92 | 552.35 | 530.66 | 42.0 | 42.1 | 41.2 | 13.26 | 13.12 | 12.88 |
| Nondurable Goods | 378.79 | 381.47 | 375.34 | 38.3 | 38.3 | 38.3 | 9.89 | 9.96 | 9.80 |
| Food & Kindred Products | 356.07 | 358.66 | 343.75 | 39.0 | 38.4 | 37.9 | 9.13 | 9.34 | 9.07 |
| TRADE | 208.88 | 215.45 | 208.80 | 28.0 | 28.2 | 28.8 | 7.46 | 7.64 | 7.25 |
| Wholesale Trade | 363.67 | 368.08 | 368.03 | 35.9 | 36.3 | 37.1 | 10.13 | 10.14 | 9.92 |
| Retail Trade | 164.22 | 172.49 | 162.89 | 25.7 | 25.9 | 26.4 | 6.39 | 6.66 | 6.17 |
| Food Stores | 143.07 | 143.82 | 144.08 | 25.1 | 25.5 | 25.5 | 5.70 | 5.64 | 5.65 |
| Other Retail | 155.36 | 155.18 | 151.91 | 24.2 | 24.4 | 24.7 | 6.42 | 6.36 | 6.15 |
| AVERAGE | 280.32 | 284.08 | 278.20 | 32.0 | 32.1 | 32.5 | 8.76 | 8.85 | 8.56 |

Note: Average hours includes hours actually worked or remunerated. Average hourly and weekly earnings include incentive and premium pay. Data may be affected by labor disputes. p = preliminary. r = revised.
Source: Utah Department of Employment Security, Labor Market Information Services. Prepared in conjunction with U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

## TABLE 8. EMPLOYMENT SECURITY ACTIVITIES IN UTAH

| | THIS YEAR | | | YEAR AGO | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Forecast Mar. '90 | Preliminary Feb. '90 | Final Jan. '90 | Final Mar. '89 | Final Feb. '89 | Final Jan. '89 |
| Total Number of Nonfarm Jobs Available | 19,539 | 17,810 | 18,379 | 18,167 | 15,074 | 14,547 |
| Number of New Applications for Jobs | 11,908 | 8,493 | 10,201 | 11,487 | 8,193 | 8,984 |
| Total Nonfarm Job Placements | 7,943 | 6,440 | 6,522 | 7,498 | 6,079 | 5,704 |
| Initial Claims (Key Week) | 1,016 | 1,043 | 1,470 | 927 | 1,217 | 1,238 |
| Weeks Claimed (Key Week) | 11,834 | 12,537 | 11,078 | 11,386 | 12,759 | 13,683 |
| Monthly Insured Unemployment Rate (Key Week) | 1.86 | 1.98 | 1.73 | 1.89 | 2.13 | 2.24 |
| Amount of Unemployment Compensation Paid | $8,119,923 | $6,597,385 | $7,100,823 | $7,376,502 | $7,474,588 | $7,877,255 |

Note: All claims data include Regular UI, UCFE, and UCX claims only.
Source: Utah Department of Employment Security, Labor Market Information Services.

TABLE 9. CURRENT PRICE INDEXES — UNITED STATES

| Item | Index | | | | % Change | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Feb. '90 | Jan. '90 | Dec. '89 | Feb. '89 | From Last Month | Feb. '89 to Feb. '90 | Jan. '89 to Jan. '90 |
| CONSUMER PRICES. (1982 - 84 = 100) | | | | | | | |
| **ALL ITEMS (CPI-U[1])** | **128.0** | **127.4** | **126.1** | **121.6** | **0.5** | **5.3** | **5.2** |
| Food and Beverages | **130.9** | 130.0 | 127.2 | 122.7 | 0.7 | 6.7 | 6.6 |
| Food at Home | **132.1** | 131.0 | 126.5 | 122.0 | 0.8 | 8.3 | 8.1 |
| Housing | **126.1** | 125.9 | 124.9 | 121.1 | 0.2 | 4.1 | 4.3 |
| Rent Residential | **136.0** | 135.8 | 135.5 | 130.9 | 0.1 | 3.9 | 4.1 |
| Fuel and Other Util. | **110.2** | 110.8 | 108.4 | 105.9 | —0.5 | 4.1 | 4.5 |
| Medical Care | **157.5** | 155.9 | 154.4 | 145.2 | 1.0 | 8.5 | 8.4 |
| Apparel and Upkeep | **120.4** | 116.7 | 119.2 | 115.3 | 3.2 | 4.4 | 1.2 |
| Transportation | **117.1** | 117.2 | 115.2 | 111.6 | —0.1 | 4.9 | 5.5 |
| Gasoline | **90.2** | 90.6 | 85.5 | 80.1 | —0.4 | 12.6 | 14.1 |
| Energy[3] | **96.4** | 97.6 | 93.2 | 89.3 | —1.2 | 8.0 | 9.7 |
| **Purchasing Power of Consumer Dollar: 1982 - 84 = $1.00** | **$.782** | **$.785** | **$.793** | **$.823** | **—0.4** | **—5.0** | **—5.0** |
| **ALL ITEMS (CPI-U[2])** | **126.4** | **125.9** | **124.6** | **120.2** | **1.0** | **5.2** | **5.2** |
| PRODUCER PRICES: (1982 = 100) | | | | | | | |
| ALL COMMODITIES | 114.4 | 114.9 | 113.0 | 110.8 | —0.4 | 3.2 | 4.2 |
| Finished Goods | 117.4 | 117.5 | 115.3 | 111.7 | —0.1 | 5.1 | 5.8 |
| Intermediate Materials | 112.5 | 113.4 | 112.0 | 110.9 | —0.8 | 1.4 | 2.6 |
| Crude Materials | 106.9 | 106.7 | 104.0 | 101.0 | 0.2 | 5.8 | 5.6 |

[1] Consumer Price Index — All Urban Consumers.
[2] Consumer Price Index — Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers.
[3] Energy is a special group index consisting of prices paid for the following: Fuel Oil, Coal, Bottled Gas, Electricity, Gasoline, and Motor Oil and Coolant. (It is not one of the components of the "All Items" as its subcomponents are already included.)
Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The Utah State Occupational Information Coordinating Committee (SOICC) has recently published the tenth edition of *Utah's Career Guide*. This 36-page report contains current career planning information, including occupational projections, wage levels, training resources, and addresses of regional assessment centers. Counselors, educators, and training program planners have found the *Guide* to be helpful for young adults just planning their careers, as well as for anyone interested in career mobility and transition. Copies may be obtained by contacting SOICC (801) 533-2028.

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# Utah LABOR MARKET REPORT

APRIL 1990 published May 1990

- In April, Utah's unemployment rate slipped down one-tenth of a point to 4.5 percent.
- Although joblessness fell slightly in April, a substantial upward revision was made to the March 1990 rate – from 4.2 percent to 4.6 percent.
- Performance for 1989 and 1990 suggests a new "March through May" trend of comparatively higher unemployment rates may be emerging.
- Growth in nonfarm jobs during April continued the vigorous trend of 1990 – employment is up 4.6 percent.
- Strong service sector growth accounted for 40 percent of Utah's new jobs.

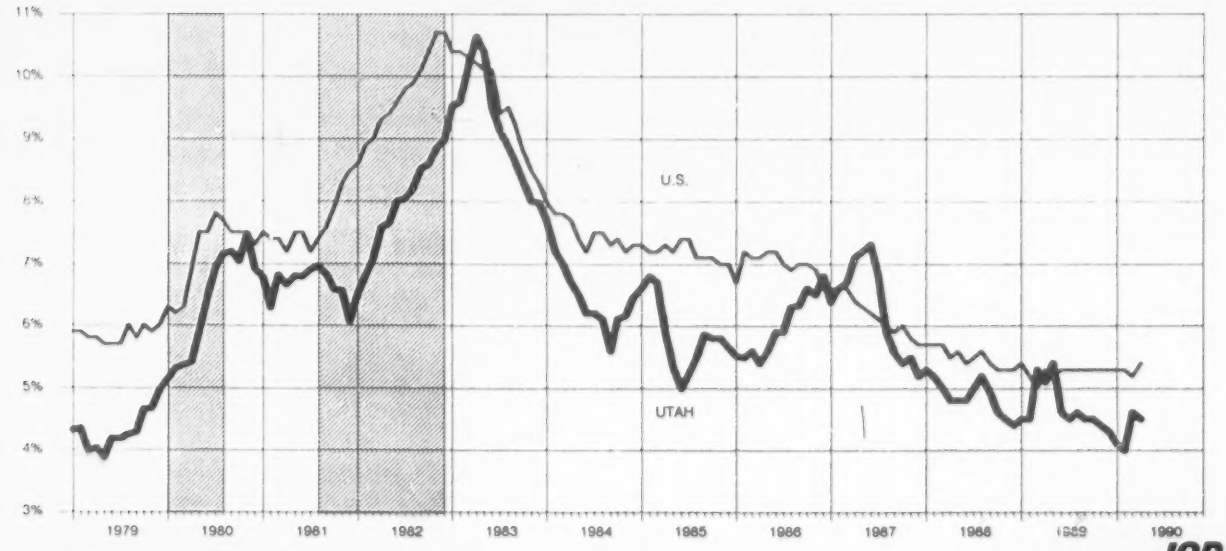
## Explanation Time

At times, explaining the "whys and wherefores" of unemployment rate behavior ranks down there with cleaning the garage. It's something that needs to be done, but it isn't necessarily pleasant. Now is "one of those times." How does one explain a four-tenths of a point revision in an unemployment rate (March) when an economic answer seems impossible to find? Job growth is strong, layoffs haven't been significant. Of course, Utah's jobless rate did edge down in April. However, rates in March and April register about half a percentage point higher than those in January and February. Plus, the same thing

**In this issue:**


- A Layman's Guide to Labor Force Statistics
- Labor Force Participation Rates by Sex, Utah and U.S.
- Cost of Living updates – CPI and ACCRA (note new ACCRA figures for St. George and Cedar City)


## UNEMPLOYMENT RATES
### Utah and United States
### 1979-1990




Shaded areas represent U.S. recessions.
Source: Utah Department of Employment Security.


UTAH DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT SECURITY — JOB SERVICE

happened last year during March, April and May. Unemployment shot up, then dropped again in later months.

## What's Happening?

What is happening? The main drivers behind the rise in unemployment appear to be an influx of people entering the work force for the first time and individuals re-entering the labor force after an absence. Since this phenomenon has occurred two years in a row, perhaps a new seasonal trend is making its debut in Utah. What we initially thought was a "statistical aberration" may, in fact, be a new pattern of joblessness.

The State's unemployment rate translates into 33,400 out-of-work Utahns. That figure registers 4 percent lower than the number of jobless individuals in the State during April 1989. And, the current 4.5 percent unemployment rate compares favorably with last April's rate of 5.1 percent and the nation's current figure of 5.4 percent. Finally, the rise in unemployment since January 1990 doesn't appear too worrisome in light of solid job growth and declining claims for unemployment insurance.

## Jobs, Jobs, Jobs

Job expansion in the State remained strong in April. Utah ranked number six nationally in terms of 1989 nonfarm percentage growth, and April just continued the trend. Nonfarm jobs have increased by 4.6 percent since April 1989 for an April 1990 total of 714,800 jobs. That's 31,300 net new jobs for Utah in the past 12-month period. Mining, trade, and services headed the industrial pack with growth rates exceeding 6 percent. Construction and transportation/communications/utilities employment expansion percentages ran neck-and-neck with the total gain – about 4.5 percent. On the sluggish side, manufacturing, finance/insurance/real estate, and government sectors all experienced job growth of 2 percent or less. However, no major industry experienced a net loss of jobs.

## Making a Comeback

Once again, the mining industry generated the highest 12-month percentage increase (9 percent) of any of Utah's major industrial categories. The resurgence of both mining and construction employment provides one of the brightest spots in the Utah economic picture. In fact, even before gains in mining employment, the industry had been producing more goods with fewer people." In addition, the 1,100 new construction jobs generated by the State since April 1989 add to Utah's prosperity – particularly since the construction industry has actually lost jobs over the past few years.

## The Same Old Song

After, a decade or so, this information may be rather monotonous – the service industry maintained its spot as the top contributor to Utah job expansion. With an increase of 7 percent since April 1989, the service industry has created 11,800 new jobs. Employment in computer services exploded with a 16 percent expansion rate. "Other Business Services" and auto repair also produced growth rates of 10 percent. Altogether, the service industry contributed almost 40 percent of the new Utah jobs created since April 1989.

The trade industry also made significant additions to Utah's employment. Since April 1989, the trade industry has generated 10,400 new positions for an increase of more than 6 percent. Retail trade advanced faster than wholesale trade – year-to-year growth rates registered 7 and 5 percent respectively.

## Moderation

The transportation/communication/utilities sector produced 1,800 new jobs for an April 1989 to April 1990 growth rate of nearly 5 percent. Exuberant expansion in air transportation produced a 10 percent rise. In addition, trucking and warehousing grew by 7 percent. These gains more than offset the 4 percent decline in railroad employment and the 3 percent decline in communications. The effect of the ongoing bus strike seems inconsequential in comparison to total sector growth.

## It's a Matter of Perspective

Manufacturing expansion continued to slow. This sector managed a 2 percent growth rate (about 1,900 jobs) between April 1989 and April 1990. Please note, Utah's manufacturing industry growth rate may seem low when compared to expansion in most of Utah's major industries. But, Utah continues to create manufacturing jobs while the national manufacturing employment average is declining. So whether Utah's manufacturing industry is doing good or not so good is a matter of perspective. However, several industries are experiencing layoffs. Since April 1989, primary metals, electronics, and some defense-related industries have all lost employment.

Government and finance/insurance/real estate exhibited the slowest April-to-April growth rates. Government employers have added 3,100 new Utah jobs since last April – an increase of slightly more than 2 percent. The public education section of State government contributed 1,500 of these new positions. On the low end of the scale, the finance/insurance/real estate sector generated a mere 500 jobs, a 12-month increase of less than 2 percent. However, this industry's growth record has improved over the last few months.

## A Final Word

Although unemployment rose noticeably between February and March, continued job expansion and declining numbers of claims for unemployment insurance point to a healthy Utah economy. In addition, the possible emergence of a new seasonal trend coupled with relatively low jobless rates should help assuage any concern over rising unemployment.

**Lecia Parks Langston, Supervising Economist**

# A Layman's Guide To Labor Force Statistics

Often, those of us involved in generating and analyzing labor force statistics forget that the rest of the world may not be as conversant with our data as we are. We assume (of course) that everyone understands what we are talking about. In fact, because of the nature of this very technical beast, many people have not mastered all the definitions. Where do those mysterious unemployment figures originate and just what do they mean? Why are they revised? Why are those revisions substantial at times? And, just what is seasonal adjustment? This article is intended to clarify the misconceptions (if they exist), explain the unknown, and refresh the memories of those already familiar with the data.

## Some Definitions and Concepts

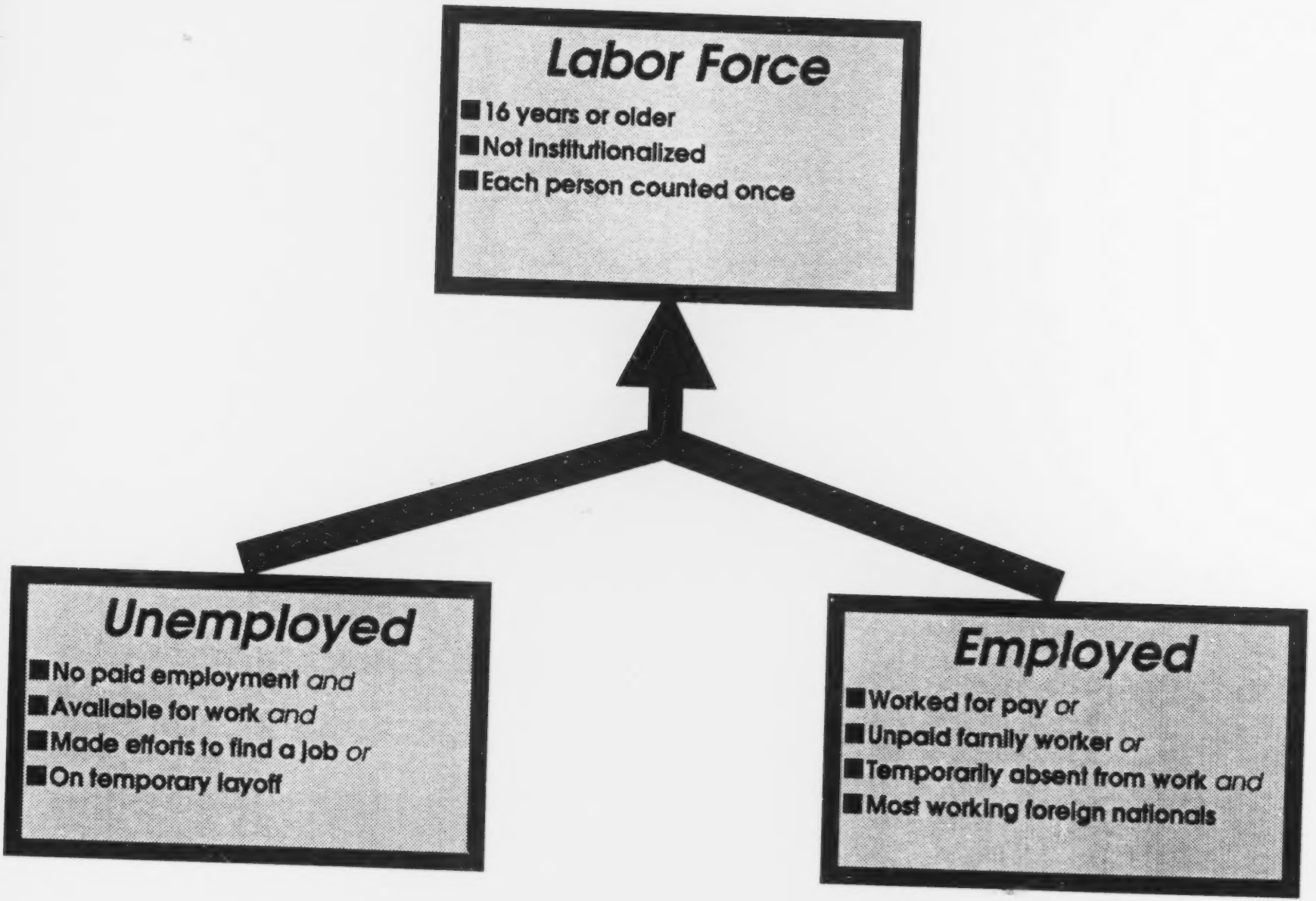
First, what are the definitions of the most familiar labor force statistics—the civilian labor force, the employed, and the unemployed? Keep in mind that all definitions apply to the "noninstitutional" population 16 years or older. Inmates of penal and mental institutions, and patients in long-term medical care facilities or in residential homes for the aged, infirm or needy are excluded from labor force figures. In addition, (with a few exceptions) individuals must be employed or seeking employment.

***The Employed***

Civilians who did any work at all for pay—including people who worked for themselves (the self-employed). Also included are people who worked 15 or more hours as unpaid workers in a family business, plus anyone temporarily absent from work because of illness, bad, weather, vacation, labor/management disputes or personal reasons—whether they were paid or not. Each person is counted only once—even if they hold more than one job. Working foreign nationals, not living on embassy premises, are also included. However, those who did volunteer work or worked around the house are excluded from "employed" counts.

***The Unemployed***

Persons who did not work, were available for work, and *made some specific efforts to find work* sometime during the prior four weeks. Availability for work is waived for persons who are "temporarily" ill. In addition, people waiting to be recalled to a job because of layoff or waiting to report to a new job within 30 days don't have to be looking for work to be included in the counts. Consequently, unemployment figures include job losers and leavers, first-time labor force entrants, and people re-entering the labor force after an absence. In other words, the unemployed segment of the labor force includes many individuals over and above the number receiving unemployment insurance benefits.


Labor Force
16 years or older
Not institutionalized
Each person counted once
Unemployed
No paid employment and
Available for work and
Made efforts to find a job or
On temporary layoff
Employed
Worked for pay or
Unpaid family worker or
Temporarily absent from work and
Most working foreign nationals

***The Civilian Labor Force*** Civilian employed plus the unemployed. National labor force figures can also include members of the military, but these figures are not compiled for states.

## Where do the Figures Come From?

Just how are labor force figures derived? The key source of labor force data is the Current Population Survey—CPS for those who prefer acronyms. The CPS is a scientifically designed survey of approximately 60,000 households nationwide. The survey is conducted by the Bureau of the Census for the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). In Utah, this sample comprises about 600 households. The survey is taken during the week containing the twelfth day of each month. Questions are designed to gather more than just the basic employment/unemployment data. Demographic characteristics (age, sex, race, marital status, etc.), earnings, occupations and industries are also collected.

For the nation as a whole CPS monthly data are statistically reliable. However, on a month-to-month basis, the CPS may be fairly erratic for smaller states (including Utah). In fact, even annual average CPS unemployment rates for Utah are subject to considerable sampling variability. For example, Utah's 1989 unemployment rate of 4.6 percent falls within a 90 percent confidence interval of 4.0 to 5.2 percent. In other words, we are 90 percent sure that if the entire labor force were surveyed, the resulting unemployment rate would register within this range.

To obtain dependable monthly unemployment rate estimates for smaller states, the Bureau of Labor Statistics has developed multiple-regression estimating procedures (models) unique to each state. Simply stated, a regression model is a mathematical equation used to estimate a numerical characteristic based on related statistical information. Utah's unemployment rate is derived using a regression equation that includes the components listed below. (Employment estimates follow a similar pattern.)

- The number of unemployment insurance claimants with no earnings divided by total Utah wage and salary employment.
- An employment-to-population ratio reflecting the business cycle and the experienced unemployed not represented in unemployment insurance claims data.
- A three-month moving average of Utah's rate of new entrants and re-entrants to the labor force (from the State portion of the CPS).

## Why are Unemployment Rates Revised So Often?

You may notice that the unemployment rate for a particular month may be changed or revised several times. Shouldn't it stay the same? After all, the past doesn't change. Well, as time goes on and as more (and better) data are obtained, employment and unemployment figures are adjusted to more accurately reflect reality. Those involved in data gathering know that the collection and compilation of statistics is often a long, drawn out process. In Utah, during a three-year period, a number of revisions are possible. What are they?

***The "Forecast" Stage*** — *Month 1.* Many other small states publish unemployment rates a month or more after the fact. Utah (a truly advanced state) publishes a "forecast" unemployment rate within one week of the month's end. This figure is based on unemployment insurance claims, projected employment data, and trended CPS data. Incidently, this rate usually sustains only minor revisions throughout the entire three-year process.

***The "Preliminary" Stage*** — *Month 2.* CPS data, additional unemployment insurance data, and employment estimates from an industry survey are available. This information is used to revise Month 1 estimates as necessary.

***The "Revised" Stage*** — *Month 3.* At this time, even more complete data are available. Estimates are improved as appropriate. However, revisions in the unemployment rate at this point are unusual.

***The "Benchmark" Stages*** — After year-end, CPS annual averages are available. At this time monthly model estimates for the preceding year are "benchmarked" or recalculated to reflect the CPS annual averages and final nonfarm employment counts. This adjustment process takes place in three stages (Years 1, 2, and 3) as model estimates are fine-tuned even further.

A quick count reveals that a monthly unemployment rate for Utah could be revised a total of five times. However, rates are generally not revised to any significant degree—although (we admit) some noticeable exceptions do occur. In fact, data for several 1989 months were significantly revised. Job Service economists and BLS statisticians are carefully monitoring 1990 model estimates in an effort to avert large benchmark revisions.

In spite of revisions, initial estimates provide a timely and fairly accurate picture of the current Utah economic scene. If only three-year-old final figures were published, the usefulness of this economic indicator would be lost. Again, this process pertains only to smaller states and does not apply to national data. Of course, the complicated statistical procedures involved in this process have been glossed over. But this analysis should provide a basic understanding of how labor force estimates are generated.

## A Word About Seasonal Adjustment

The preceding process produces "raw" data. However, the figures quoted on the 6 o'clock news are "seasonally adjusted." Just what is seasonal adjustment and why is it used? Often it is difficult to tell from raw statistics whether a change was caused by changing economic conditions or occurred just because of normal seasonal fluctuations—weather changes, holidays, opening/closing of schools, etc. These seasonal events usually follow a regular pattern every year. In fact, seasonal elements may account for as much as 90 percent of the month-to-month change in unemployment. Statistical procedures based on historical data provide a way to minimize fluctuations due to the seasonality of labor force estimates.

# Determination of Labor Force Status